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MP for Aberavon

October 2020 Newsletter

MANY OF MY CONSTITUENTS HAVE BEEN BADLY LET DOWN BY THE CRACKS IN GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Many constituents have been in touch with me about how the coronavirus crisis has affected their livelihoods and how they are not covered by any of the UK government support schemes. In an Opposition Day debate I raised their plight.

The Chancellor has had seven months to create a robust Covid support scheme, yet many in Aberavon are still falling through the gaps. There is still a lack of support for self-employed people during local lockdowns, and many of



Speaking about the impact of coronavirus on Aberavon

Aberavon's pubs and hospitality firms are increasingly concerned that they are not receiving sufficient compensation.

The Government should put in place a job recovery scheme that fixes the problems with the Government's schemes, so that employers can keep more staff on, rather than having to let people go; that ensures no one

on the scheme falls into poverty; and that is open to all businesses impacted by the restrictions.

Equally constituents have been hit by travel companies and airlines not recognising local lockdowns. Holidays are not seen as a reasonable excuse to leave a lockdown area, yet because the flights are going ahead, some travel companies and insurers are refusing to give refunds or pay out. The UK government needs to apply pressure on those firms and to compensate customers where a firm has gone bust.

Our steel industry can only get through this crisis with urgent support from

sector deal, such as the one that aerospace and construction have, but they must first offer

“I want to start by paying tribute to those in my constituency who have kept our economy and our community going. Key workers and community groups have pulled together to get us through these difficult times, while local businesses have turned their hands to manufacturing PPE at the drop of a hat. It has been an inspiration to witness.”

Government.

The Government must offer long-term support to steel in the form of a

immediate short-term support to get us through this crisis.

THIS MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

FIRE AND REHIRE

Employees from British Gas and British Airways living in Aberavon have contacted me over the disgraceful way they've been being treated. Employers are using the unacceptable practice of fire and rehire to reduce terms and conditions. I challenged the UK government on what they are doing to tackle this.

months ago.

On the economy, it creates the conditions for a race to the bottom, opening the back door to hormone-injected beef and chlorinated chicken becoming the norm.

I am also profoundly concerned that the Bill risks the integrity of our Union with the UK Government hellbent on cutting the devolved administrations out of the conversation.

I warned of Tory plans to channel the Shared Prosperity Fund (former EU cash) direct to Tory seats – pork-barrel politics at its worst!

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES

As the outgoing Chair of the APPG on Palestine I led a debate in the House on the

occupied Palestinian Territories and set out why the Trump plan is not a basis for peace and security in the region.

I called out how the Israeli government's illegal settlements break international law and for the Trump plan to be taken off the table. I also emphasised the need to recognise Palestine, and raised the alarm on UK firms trading out of illegal settlements.

PENSION CREDIT CHAMPION

I've signed up to be a Pension Credit Champion after hearing that and estimated 1852 people in Aberavon are missing out on approximately £4m a year. I'm pleased to be backing Independent Age's call for the Government to



Speaking on fire and rehire

urgently put in place an action plan to turn this situation around.

AGRICULTURE BILL

The Agriculture Bill returned from the House of Lords with important amendments that sought to uphold British food and animal welfare standards in future trade deals. I supported these amendments but the Tories used their majority to vote them down and push through a Bill that lets Welsh farmers be undercut by poor quality food produced elsewhere.

INTERNAL MARKET BILL

In Parliament I stood up for the UK's global reputation, and for Welsh devolution in the debate on the Internal Market Bill.

The Government have freely and openly confirmed that the Bill will breach international law by overriding elements of the withdrawal agreement signed only nine

SHADOW MINISTER FOR ASIA & PACIFIC ROUND-UP

It's been a busy month as Shadow Minister for Asia and the Pacific with debates in Westminster Hall returning.

I responded for the Labour frontbench in the debate on the Chinese Communist Party's treatment of the Uyghur. Their persecution is a scar on the conscience of the world. I urged the UK government to publicly oppose China's election to the UN Human Rights Council, to deploy Magnitsky sanctions against senior CCP officials and to stop UK firms using forced labour in supply chains.

I also responded for the Labour



frontbench in the debate on human rights abuses in Tibet. I called on the UK government to broaden the scope of the Magnitsky sanctions legislation to include senior Chinese Communist Party officials responsible, and to help

UK firms avoid goods and services that may involve Tibetan forced labour.

I asked the government to push the UN to appoint a Special Rapporteur for Xinjiang and Tibet.

During Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office questions I pressed Ministers to stand up for democratic and human rights in Hong Kong. Successive Conservative government have been naive and complacent in their dealing with the Chinese government. The UK ought to be pushing ahead with targeted sanctions against officials who abuse them.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

I spoke with **BBC WALES TODAY** about the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, which is supposed to replace EU funding, after the Welsh Affairs committee published a report raising concerns that devolution will not be respected.

I took part in a **TIMES RADIO** panel discussion about lockdown measures and how the Welsh Government are taking a different approach, and support for businesses and workers.

I also had an article in the **SOUTH WALES EVENING POST** about the Britain *We Need Our Steel Campaign*.



CONSTITUENCY OFFICE HERE TO HELP

I and my team are continuing to work remotely to help and support residents.

You can still get in touch with us by calling the office on 01639 897660. Leave your name and number, we will call you back. Alternatively please send an email to stephen.kinnock.mp@parliament.uk

We've made some changes to our online advice surgeries and are now offering a call-back or Zoom appointment with a caseworker Monday to Friday. To request a call-back or book a Zoom appointment please complete this form - <https://bit.ly/2ySiyh9>

I am still holding online advice surgeries which can be booked online at <https://bit.ly/3jrZl2F> please check on my website or Facebook page for details of the next one.

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MAILING LIST

You can sign up to my mailing list at: www.stephenkinnock.co.uk

I send out a regular newsletter, surveys and notifications of events I'm organising.

